

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL STAFFDEL TRAVEL: THE TAIWAN ISSUE IN THE
PROVINCES

REF: (A) PEKING 1429, (B) PEKING 1580

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE GENERAL EXPECTATION BY HOLT-CZARNECKI STAFFDEL MEMBERS THAT CHINESE IN PROVINCES WOULD HAMMER AWAY AT THE TAIWAN QUESTION A LA WANG HAI-JUNG, THE ISSUE ALO E ONLY IN PASSING OR IN THE CONTEXT OF "CULTURAL" PERFORMANCES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE HOLT-CZARNECKI DELEGATION DEPARTED PEKING FOR THE PROVINCES ON JULY 29 AFTER SUFFERING TWO SHOCKS: THE EARTH-QUAKE, AND THE UNEXPECTEDLY TOUGH LINE ON TAIWAN DELIVERED BY VICE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG (REF A). BUT IN THE PROVINCES THERE WERE NO FURTHER FORMAL POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AND THE PRIME TOPIC OF POLITE CNVERSATION WAS THE EARTH-QUAKE, NOT THE CONDITIONS OF NORMALIZATION (REF B).

3. ON THE DELEGATION'S FIRST FULL DAY OUT OF PEKING (7/30), A CHILDREN'S GROUP INCLUDED IN ITS PROGRAM THE SONG "TAIWAN COMPATRIOTS ARE OUR FLESH AND BLOOD BROTHERS" WHICH ENDS WITH AN EXPRESSION OF DETERMIN- TION OF "LIBERATE" TAIWAN. (COMMENT: INCLUSION OF THIS SONG IN PROGRAMS FOR AMERICAL VISITORS IS QUITE USUAL.) FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY UPON THIS, THE DELEGA-

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TION WAS INVITED TO REVIEW A FULL-DRESS DRILL IN

BLISETERING HEAT BY THE COMMUNE'S ARMED MILITIA. STILL RECOILING AT THE VICE FOREIGN MINISTER'S NOOSE-AND-BAYONETS ANABYPY, SEVERAL DELEGATION MEMBERS SAW IN THIS CONJUNCTION OF ITEMS A NONE-TOO-SUBTLE MESSAGE.

4. TAIWAN WAS NOT AGAIN MENTIONED, HOWEVER, UNTIL A VISIT ON AUGUST 3 TO THE 179TH INFANTRY DIVISION BASED IN THE SUBURBS OF NANKING. AND THERE THE CHINESE TOOK A STANDARD, NOT PARTICULARLY BELLICOSE LINE. ASKED ABOUT THE DIVISION'S MISSION, THE CHIEF OF STAFF RESPONDED: "SINCE WE ARE PART OF A FIELD ARMY, OUR PRIMARY MISSION IS COMBAT. . . TO WIPE OUT AGRESSION BY IMPERIALISM AND THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS . . . AND OUR TAIWAN PROVINCE IS NOT YET LIBERATED."

5. TWO SONGS CONCERNING TAIWAN--THE AFOREMENTIONED ONE AND ANOTHER ENTITLED "TAIWAN'S PEOPLE ARE HOPING FOR LIBERATION"--WERE PERFORMED AT A SHANGHAI CONCERT ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 8. HERE THERE MUST BE A STRONG PRESUMPTION OF DELIBERATE ORCHESTRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE VISITORS. TREMENDOUS APPLAUSE ISSUED FORTH FROM THE CHINESE MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE AS THE EVENING'S STAR PERFORMER SANG THE FIRST FEW BARS OF HER FINAL --"TAIWAN COMPATRIOTS ARE OUR FLESH AND BLOOD BROTHERS." FOLLOWING THE PERFORMANCE, SEVERAL OF THE CHINESE HOST-ESCORTS POINTEDLY ASKED HOW DELEGATION MEMBERS HAD ENJOYED THE SHOW--ESPECIALLY THE MAIN SINGER AND HER RENDITION OF THE TAIWAN SONG. (BY PRIOR AGREEMENT THE DELEGATION HAD APPLAUDED NEITHER TAIWAN COMPOSITION.)

6. THROUGHOUT THE TRIP VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE CHINESE HOST ORGANIZATION QUESTIONED DELEGATION MEMBERS UNINFORMALLY ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION POLITICS, THE OUTLOOK FOR NOVEMBER, THE MOOD OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND CURRENT THINKING AT VARIOUS LEVELS ABOUT NORMALIZATION. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY IN-DEPTH CONVERSATIONS ON THE TAIWAN ISSUE.

7. DESPITE THIS RATHER LOW-KEY FOLLOWUP TO THE VICE
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FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESENTATION, THE DELEGATION WILL DOUBTLESS DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE SPACE IN ITS FINAL REPORT TO ITS FINDINGS ON THE TAIWAN QUESTION. IF THEIR PRIVATE COMMENTS TO US ARE A GUIDE, THE REPORT MAY WELL HIGHLIGHT THE GREAT DISTANCE BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE POSITIONS OF THE US AND THE PRC.
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